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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Debra Chrisjohn's family rallies support to honour her during the criminal trial of a London Police Constable

LONDON, ON: The family of Debra Chrisjohn has been attending the criminal trial of Constable Nicholas Doering of the London Police Service that began on Monday October 21, 2019 and continues throughout the week. Constable Doering has been charged with criminal negligence causing death and failure to provide the necessities of life.

The family will be holding a rally, with traditional drumming, singing, and speeches in honour and recognition of Ms. Debra Chrisjohn on Friday, October 25th at the London Courthouse at 80 Dundas Street from 1-2pm. The family welcomes supporters.

Ms. Chrisjohn's sisters have heard evidence over the last three days of the trial by judge-alone in the Superior Court of Justice. The evidence tells the story of Debra Chrisjohn obstructing traffic and requiring the help of strangers around her to stay safe while waiting for 911 emergency response. Constable Doering arrived on scene first and immediately arrested Ms. Chrisjohn on an outstanding warrant related to a shoplifting charge held by the Ontario Provincial Police.

Despite the arrival of London EMS soon thereafter, no medical assessment was completed and Constable Doering left with Ms. Chrisjohn in the backseat of his cruiser. By the time she was transferred to OPP just outside of St. Thomas, she was largely unresponsive and could not comply with basic police requests.

"It's painfully clear that my sister required assessment by the paramedics who were on scene and Constable Doering clearly brushed them off, even after they directly asked if they could look at her," says Cindy Chrisjohn, Debra's sister. "How could it be so obvious to strangers that she needed assistance and he missed it... I don't think he missed it. He ignored it and she died because he failed to do his job as a professional."

Brittany and Ruby Chrisjohn, also sisters of Debra, sadly agree. "He didn't want to deal with waiting for her at the hospital to make sure she was okay. He couldn't wait to transfer her to the OPP and purposely misled them into believing she had already been medically cleared. Her life was in his hands."

"It is incredibly difficult for the family of Debra Chrisjohn to hear about her final hours. The inaction by Constable Nicholas Doering allowed Ms. Chrisjohn's physical condition to deteriorate so rapidly without medical intervention. This is a form of police violence," explains Caitlyn Kasper, lawyer at Aboriginal Legal Services and counsel for the family. She added, "Ms. Chrisjohn was handcuffed, in the backseat of Constable Doering's police cruiser in his custody. She was completely incapable of obtaining help for herself and he was responsible for her

wellbeing. This is why he is facing these charges. He needs to answer for his failure to protect her.”

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